Opening of New Post Offices in Bombay

1382. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand to open New Post Offices in money places in Bombay;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the places;

(c) if so, what are those places;

(d) by when Government propose to open Post Offices at each of these places; and

(e) what improvements Government propose to implement in the Postal Department in Bombay during the next three years; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Accordingly, the Department has already sanctioned 7 departmental sub post offices during 1992-93 in Bombay. It is also proposed to open 2 more departmental sub post offices during 1993-94. The details of these places are as under:—

	Sanctioned during 1992-93	Proposed to be opened in 1993-94
1.	Evershine Nagar	Gokuldham
2.	Kastur Part	Marolnaka
3.	Amrut Nagar	
4.	P.L. Lokhandi Marg Chembur	
5.	PMG(P) Colony	
6.	Dyocnam Nagar	
7.	Chitra Camp	

(d) In the case of these sanctioned post offices, the Department has already issued tender notices and approached various Centre/State/local bodies to provide suitable accommodation. As and when suitable accommodation is made available, the post offices will be opened.

(e) Various measures for improvement are planned to be implemented progressively in Bombay which include provision of multi-purpose counter machines, upgrading the technology of equipments use, computerisation of selected departments within the post office such as the Savings Bank, and construction of Post Office buildings.

Procuring Telecom Equipment on Deferred Payment

1383. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's decision to procure telecom equipments on deferred payment basis has proved to be a non-starter with reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the offers of some foreign company for supplier's credit for switching equipments were rejected as these were not found cheaper than leasing option; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost is the same both under the leasing and deferred payment options;

(d) whether it is also a fact that no company is likely to fall into the Telecom Commission's trap, barring rejected equipment suppliers; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to procure the badly needed switching equipments under these circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. Deferred payment options have been considered for some telecom. equipment.

(b) Offers of deferred payment were obtained from eligible suppliers of large switching equipment and were compared with the best leasing offers already available. The deferred payment offer of only one supplier was found better than leasing but entailed payment in terms of foreign currency for many years and was not accepted.

(c) Equipment cost is the same in both the cases. However leasting option has been found cheaper than deferred payment except to the extent indicated in part (b).